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## Home Economics Placement Office Matches Graduates To Employers

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*Mrs. Mary Elva Sather gives a graduate's individual report personal attention before filling a position*

## Home Economics Placement Office Matches Graduates To Employers

**F**OR 75 years Iowa State has turned out women specialized in the field of home economics. They have gone into professional life and carved their niche. But there's much more to this point than one discovers immediately.

Home Economics Placement Office is its official title. But underneath, it represents the personal and constant endeavor of the division to start every graduate in her chosen field with all the encouragement and opportunity possible.

Previous to 1925 the placement of graduates, except those entering high school teaching, was entirely through the individual efforts of the heads of departments and the dean. High school teachers were placed easily enough by the Teacher Placement Office. The rest of the graduates left their hopes of a career to chance and frequently were left hoping.

Today no graduate need wait for chance to bring her professional opportunities. The Placement Office is constantly on the lookout for positions that graduates might successfully and enjoyably fill. Through individual reports, personal contacts and records of grades, activities and experience the office has a good idea as to what kind of work a graduate desires and whether or not she fills the requirements of a position available.

### *Job Requests*

In 1946, 2,351 requests reached the placement office desk of Mrs. Mary Elva Sather. From these, 513 women were offered positions. These requests were in addition to the 461 received by the Teacher Placement Office. One hundred and eight graduates accepted positions in high school teaching.

Employers represented through the Home Economics Placement Office were looking for home economists for college teaching, extension work, nursery schools, commercial art and clothing, experimental cookery, nutrition, food service, home service, laboratory technician work, dietetics, writing, radio and advertising.

This is a big step from 1926 when 144 young women received their B. S. degrees and 61 followed commercial pathways in addition to those who began teaching. Each of last year's 311 graduates had almost six positions to choose from in a variety of fields.

### *Increased Demand*

Many points have brought about the transgression that marks this apparent increase. In 1926 only department stores and YMCA's were hiring food service people. Today we find requests from commercial and industrial cafeterias, restaurants, private tearooms, large and small hotels and college dormitories.

Many of the companies that hired Iowa State graduates in 1926 are still doing so today. The National Dairy Council, Swift and Company, General Mills and General Foods are just a few of the companies that have been hiring Iowa State trained home economists through the years.

Every year undergraduates find summer work through the placement office of Iowa State. In 1926 there was one request and one student placed. In 1947 there were 320 requests and 100 students took positions in resorts, hospitals, department stores, publishing houses and summer camps to enlarge their budget as well as their experience.